

I. ESSENTIALS OF PHYSIOLOGY. By H. A. HARE, M. D., Demonstrator of Therapeutics and Instructor in Physical Diagnosis in the Medical Department, and Instructor in Physiology in the Biological Department of the University of Pennsylvania; Member of the American Society of Physiologists and of the American Society of Naturalists. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders. 1888. 12mo., pp. 170, price, \$1.00.

II. ESSENTIALS OF ANATOMY. Including Visceral Anatomy. By CHAS. B. NANCREDE, M. D., Senior Surgeon to Episcopal Hospital Surgeon to Jefferson College Hospital, formerly Lecturer on Osteology, etc., in Medical Department University of Pa.; Late Professor of General and Orthopedic Surgery in Philadelphia Polyclinic; and Lecturer on Surgery in Dartmouth Medical College, etc., etc. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 1888. 12mo., pp. 352; price, \$1.00.

III. ESSENTIALS OF MEDICAL CHEMISTRY, ORGANIC AND INORGANIC, containing also Questions on Medical Physics, Chemical Philosophy, Analytical Processes, Urinalysis and Toxicology. By LAWRENCE WOLFF, M. D., Demonstrator of Chemistry, Jefferson Medical College; Visiting Physician to German Hospital of Philadelphia, Member of Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, etc., etc. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 1888. 12mo., pp. 214; price, \$1.00.

IV. ESSENTIALS OF SURGERY.—Containing also, Surgical Landmarks, Minor and Operative Surgery, and a Complete Description, together with full Illustration of the Handkerchief and Roller Bandage. By EDWARD MARTIN, A. M., M. D., Instructor in Operative Surgery and Lecturer on Minor Surgery, University of Pennsylvania; Surgeon to the Out-patient Department of the Children's Hospital, and Surgical Registrar of the Philadelphia Hospital. Philadelphia. W. B. Saunders, 1888. 12mo., pp. 314; price, \$1.00.

V. ESSENTIALS OF OBSTETRICS. By W. EASTERLY ASHTON, M. D., Demonstrator of Clinical Obstetrics in the Jefferson Medical College, and Chief of Clinic for Diseases of Women in the Jefferson Medical College. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 1888. 12mo., pp. 220; price, \$1.00.

VI. HANDBOOK OF MATERIA MEDICA, PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS. By CUTHBERT BOWEN, M.D. Philadelphia and London, F. A. Davis, 1888. 12mo., pp. 366; price, \$1.40.

We can see a very clearly defined field for works such as we have enumerated, although the abuse of them is unquestionably productive of evil to the medical student. They are of value to him in helping to

define and parcel out the avalanche of knowledge with which modern science is inclined to overwhelm him. They supplement the lectures of his instructors and the reading of his textbooks by affording a skeleton about which he can group the facts and details gained from more extensive study. They may also be used to no little advantage by the practitioner in presenting the main facts of his professional work in a suitable form for ready reference and complete classification. The form of questions and answers which is found in the works under consideration is peculiarly qualified to secure definiteness of information. In their proper places, then, as adjuvants to the more complete standard works, this class of books may be of the greatest advantage. But when used improperly as the sole source of information they may be productive of decided harm in leading the student into a narrow and inadequate conception of the breadth of medical science. In repressing a favorable opinion, then, of a work of this kind, the condition of proper use is invariably implied.

The essentials of physiology are most clearly and comprehensively outlined by Dr. Hare. His views will not be endorsed by all teachers, but they represent the opinions now most commonly advanced.

Dr. Nancrede has given us a work far more extensive in its character than any thing of the kind that has fallen under our observation. The medical student who shall have mastered its contents will certainly have acquired all the essential points of anatomy. Lucid in statement and terse in style, aside from the worn and imperfect illustrations, it is difficult to see how it could be improved.

Dr. Wolff seems to us to have been peculiarly happy in his presentation of those portions of chemistry of interest to the medical man. The questions are distinctly stated and the answers, framed with marked clearness, are fully up to the times.

While an acquaintance with no other work on surgery than the work of Dr. Martin would make the practitioner a rather dangerous character, yet in the field to which he has confined it, "as a framework upon which more detailed knowledge may be hung," it is a success. Comprehensive in scope, although necessarily bald in form, it is an unusually satisfactory condensation.

In Dr. Ashton's work on obstetrics, we find the subject so succinctly presented that a remarkably considerable amount of information is contained within a very limited space. The book certainly presents all the essentials of its subjects, and so much other valuable matter that its perusal will be of decided advantage to the busy practitioner.

Materia medica, pharmacy and therapeutics form so extensive a

combination that a condensation of the three subjects within the covers of a single small volume requires rare skill and judgment. In the main the work of Dr. Bowen is well done and the book is the best of the kind that we have seen. But the omission of agents now so commonly used as antipyrin, antifebrin, resorcin and other well established though recent drugs would seem to be a point worthy of change in another edition.

THE PATHOLOGY, CLINICAL HISTORY AND DIAGNOSIS OF AFFECTIONS OF THE MEDIASTINUM OTHER THAN THOSE OF THE HEART AND AORTA. The Fothergillian Essay for 1888. By HOBART AMORY HARE, B. Sc., M. D. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston, Son & Co., 1889. 8vo, pp. 150.

In this brochure the author presents an exhaustive study of mediastinal diseases embodying in tabular form the entire recorded literature of the subject together with a full analysis of the data obtained. The paper is succinctly stated and logically arranged, fully justifying the author's claim of greater surgical importance for his locality than is ordinarily admitted.

He summarizes his conclusions clearly as follows:

1. Cancer is more frequently found in the mediastinal spaces than any other morbid process.
2. Abscess is the morbid process next in frequency of occurrence.
3. Sarcoma occupies a third position as to frequency.
4. Lymphomata and lymphadenomata occupy a fourth place, but are much more rare than the others mentioned.
5. The anterior mediastinum is affected far more frequently than are the other two spaces.
6. Most mediastinal growths occur in males.
7. More males are affected than females by mediastinal disease, be that disease what it may.
8. Cancer and sarcoma of this space are necessarily fatal.
9. Abscess is recovered from in about 40 per cent of the cases.

PRACTICAL ANATOMY. A manual of dissections. By CHRISTOPHER HEATH, F.R.C.S. Seventh edition. Revised by RICKMAN J. GODLEE, M. S. Lond. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston, Son & Co., 1888. Small 84, pp. 598. Price, \$5.00.

Heath's dissecting manual has long been a popular dissecting-room companion, and the appearance of the seventh edition is an indication of continued recognition of its value. The present edition derives decided advantage from the revision of so accomplished an anatomist as Mr. Godlee.

JAMES E. PILCHER.